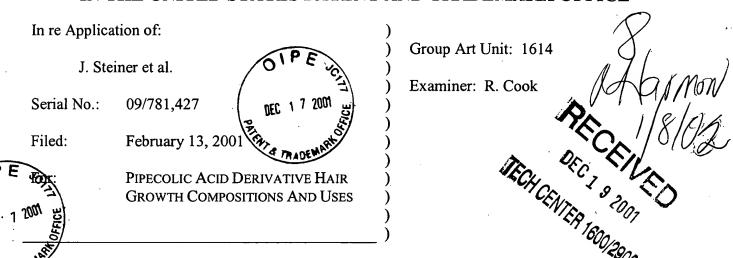
Attorney Docket: 270/007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby disclose to the Office the items identified in this Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS"). The items are listed on the attached forms PTO-1449. Items listed on pages 1 and 3 of the attached Forms PTO-1449 have been submitted with the concurrently-filed Reply in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/825,896. Items listed on page 2 of the attached Forms PTO-1449 have been submitted herewith.

The items identified in this IDS may or may not be "material" pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. The submission thereof by Applicants is not to be construed as an admission that any such patent, publication, or other information referred to therein is material or considered to be material (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h)) or qualifies as "prior art" under 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to this invention, unless specifically designated by Applicants as such.

Applicants are aware of the following pending related patent applications:

- 09/089,831, filed on 6/03/98
- 09/089,377, filed on 6/03/98

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- 09/204,238, filed on 12/3/98
- 09/453,571, filed on 12/2/99
- 09/551,618, filed on 4/17/00
- 09/709,318, filed on 11/13/00
- 09/741,437, filed on 12/21/00
- 09/776,904, filed on 2/6/01
- 09/781,433, filed on 2/13/01
- 09/781,426, filed on 2/13/01
- 09/784,174, filed on 2/16/01
- 09/791,661, filed on 2/26/01
- 09/825,896, filed on 4/5/01
- 09/835,523, filed on 4/17/01
- 09/878,225, filed on 6/12/01
- 09/879,888, filed on 6/14/01
- 09/880,028, filed on 6/14/01
- 09/893,567, filed on 6/29/01
- 09/893,568, filed on 6/29/01
- 09/435,323, filed on 11/5/99
- 09/134,417, filed on 8/14/98

This IDS is being submitted under 37 CFR § 1.97(c), that is after mailing of a first Office action on the merits, but before a Final Action under 37 CFR § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR

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§ 1.311. Accordingly, a fee of \$180.00 is due under 37 CFR §§ 1.17(p) and 1.97(c)(2). Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the fee amount of \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 12-2475.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 12-2475 for all fees.

Respectfully submitted,

LYON & LYON LLP

Dated: 17-DEC-2001

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